

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 22, 2005

2:00 P.M.



MINUTES

I. Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting is called to order at 2:05 pm. .

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	
		Excused	Unexcused
Eric Reed, Dist. 3, <i>Chairperson</i>	X		
Vacant, Mayor's Appt.			
Olivia Chavez, Dist. 1	X		
Willie Padilla, Dist. 2	X		
Donald J. Seeley, Dist 4, Co-Chairperson	X		
Fred Gromand, Dist. 5		X	
Martin Wagner, Dist. 6		X	
Enriqueta Natividad, Dist. 7	X		
Ernesto Armendariz, Dist. 8	X		
Bill Bennett, ADA Coordinator	X		
Ruby B. Ransom (Mr. Reed's Assistant)	X		
Steve Burman, Human Resources		X	
Sergio Reyes, Traffic Eng. Div.	X		
James W. Peterson, Sun Metro		X	
City Attorney's Office			
Representative Melina Castro	X		
Jeff Belles, General Services Director	X		
Susan Leech	X		

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of August 25, 2005.

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Audible Pedestrian Signal status

The signals have a CCU that goes in the controller box. If the power fails and the lights go to flashing the audible unit will still work and if activated, could send an individual across the street at a time they are not supposed to cross. All of the CCUs were sent back to the manufacturer to correct the problem. The handrail at Paisano should be done within the next month. The plans for the 2nd and 3rd priority intersections were returned to the engineer for minor modifications. When they are returned construction on the intersections will begin. The first priority intersections are complete.

B. Sensitivity Training for Council Members.

The sensitivity training for the Mayor and Council was cancelled. The reason is that the City Manager was not aware of the training. Eric Reed talked to the City Manager about the item and he will start telling her what the committee is doing. He will be meeting with the City Manager on October 5, 2005, and the new training date will be determined. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow Eric to reschedule the training session and let the committee members know when the training will take place.

C. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives.

Supportive employment. This item is still on hold. The mayor is in favor of the supportive employment and knows that it was a very successful program. There was a minimal amount of funding for the program. The program will be expanded to allow employees to become permanent and fall under Civil Service. A mentoring program was also discussed with the mayor.

Taxi Ordinance. The taxi ordinance may not need to be amended. It may be possible for Sun Metro to enter into agreements with the taxi companies that would allow Sun Metro to purchase the accessible taxis and the Taxi company would operate the service.

Sidewalk Ordinance. Still need to look at the existing ordinance.

Sensitivity Training. Already covered.

Transition Plan for the City. A document was presented to the Mayor explaining how the transition plan can be created within a year. Each department would appoint a coordinator for the department. All of the coordinators would become a task force. The task force will review each department's policies, programs and procedures and make appropriate changes. The documents will be assembled and public hearings will be held. Adjustments will be made and the document (transition plan) and it will be placed in the ADA Coordinators office. It will be reviewed annually and a revised document will be drafted and kept in the Coordinator's office.

Put ADA Coordinator under the Mayor/City Manager. This item was discussed in depth. The ADA has been treated as strictly brick and mortar and it is not. If the office is off the side of the City Manager then work on all of the issues will come from top down instead of from the bottom up which has not worked in the past. The proposed placing of the coordinator is similar to the location in Chicago. The reasons for placing the coordinator under the City Manager include working from the top down, look at the different departments policies, programs and procedures, review of city facilities, and updating the Transition plan.

Barrier Free Construction. A presentation will be made to the Builders Association on October 19, 2005, on barrier free construction. The apartment survey to determine if there are units that meet the fair housing requirements is going to be started in the next week and it is hoped to have the results within 6 weeks. A livable community is one of the principals behind barrier free construction.

D. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance.

No formal complaints.

E. Update on transfer of the Accessibility Coordinator function.

The position has been transferred to General Services Department of Financial Services. The coordinator's office is located on the seventh floor.

F. Open Meeting Act Requirements.

The requirements for having a teleconference meeting were presented from the Open Meetings Handbook. It appears that a teleconference can be used to comply with the Open Meetings Act. A question posting subcommittee meetings 72 hours in advance was brought up. The requirements will be presented and clarified at the next meeting.

G. Plan Reviews

None. The Coordinator will bring Municipal Projects to the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Building Permits and inspections will be contacted to have a representative present and to present any major public access projects that are done.

H. Next Meeting Agenda, Date and Location

The next meeting will be on October 13, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the 8th floor conference room.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The city will be receiving up to 1500 evacuees from the Gulf Coast Region. Volar will be assisting by registering the evacuees and if anyone can volunteer to assist, let Eric Reed know.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Eric Reed, Chairperson

William Bennett, Accessibility Coordinator